

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## § 21.40

and post-placement services provided to a veteran under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31 to assist the veteran in obtaining or maintaining suitable employment.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3117)

(k) *Other terminology.* The following are primarily intended as explanations rather than definitions of terms to which frequent reference will be made in these regulations.

(1) *Counseling psychologist.* Unless otherwise stated, the term *counseling psychologist* refers to a counseling psychologist in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Division in the Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

(2) *Vocational rehabilitation specialist.* Unless otherwise stated, the term *vocational rehabilitation specialist* refers to a vocational rehabilitation specialist in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Division in the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or to a Department of Veterans Affairs counseling psychologist performing the duties of a vocational rehabilitation specialist.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

(3) *School, educational institution, institution.* These terms means any public or private school, secondary school, vocational school, correspondence school, business school, junior college, teachers' college, college, normal school, professional school, university, or scientific or technical institution, or other institution furnishing education for adults.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3452(c))

(4) *Training establishment.* This term means any establishment providing apprenticeship or other training on the job, including those under the supervision of a college or university or any State department of education, or any State apprenticeship agency, or any State board of vocational education, or any joint apprenticeship committee, or the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training established in accordance with 29 U.S.C. Chapter 4C, or any agency of the

Federal Government authorized to supervise such training.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3452(e))

(5) *Rehabilitation facility.* This term means a distinct organizational entity, either separate or within a larger institution or agency, which provides goal-oriented comprehensive and coordinated services to individuals designed to evaluate and minimize the handicapping effects of physical, mental, social and vocational disadvantages, and to effect a realization of the individual's potential.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3115(a))

(6) *Workshop.* This term means a charitable organization or institution, conducted not for profit, but for the purpose of carrying out an organized program of evaluation and rehabilitation for handicapped workers and/or for providing such individuals with remunerative employment and other occupational rehabilitative activity of an educational or therapeutic nature.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3115(a))

(7) *Vocational rehabilitation counselor.* Unless otherwise stated, the term vocational rehabilitation counselor refers to a vocational rehabilitation counselor in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Division in the Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3118(c))

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984; 50 FR 9622, Mar. 11, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 50956, Dec. 19, 1988; 62 FR 17707, Apr. 11, 1997]

### BASIC ENTITLEMENT

#### § 21.40 Basic entitlement.

A veteran or serviceperson shall be entitled to a program of rehabilitation services under 38 U.S.C. chapter 31 if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) *Service-connected disability.* (1) The veteran has a service-connected disability of 20 percent or more which is, or but for the receipt of retired pay would be, compensable under 38 U.S.C. chapter 11, and which was incurred or aggravated in service on or after September 16, 1940; or

## § 21.41

## 38 CFR Ch. I (7–1–00 Edition)

(2) A serviceperson is hospitalized for a service-connected disability in a hospital over which the Secretary concerned has charge pending discharge or release from active military, naval or air service and is suffering from a disability which will likely be compensable at a rate of 20 percent or more under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 11; or

(3) A veteran or serviceperson, as described in paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section, has a service-connected disability which is compensable or is likely to be compensable at less than 20 percent, if the individual filed an original application for Chapter 31 before November 1, 1990.

(b) *Employment handicap.* The veteran or serviceperson is determined to be in need of rehabilitation to overcome an employment handicap.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3102, Pub. L. 101-508)

[56 FR 15836, Apr. 18, 1991]

### PERIODS OF ELIGIBILITY

#### § 21.41 Basic period of eligibility.

A veteran having basic entitlement may be provided a program of rehabilitative services during the twelve-year period following discharge. The beginning date of the twelve-year period is the day of the veteran's discharge or release from his or her last period of active military, naval, or air service and the ending date is twelve years from the discharge or release date, unless the beginning date is deferred or the ending date is deferred or extended as provided in §§ 21.42, 21.44, and 21.45.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3103)

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984; 50 FR 9622, Mar. 11, 1985]

#### § 21.42 Basic period of eligibility deferred.

The basic twelve-year period of eligibility does not begin to run if the veteran was prevented from beginning or continuing a vocational rehabilitation program for one of the following reasons:

(a) *Qualifying compensable service-connected disability established.* The basic twelve-year period shall not begin to run until the veteran establishes the existence of a compensable service-connected disability described in § 21.40(a).

When the veteran establishes the existence of a compensable service-connected disability described in § 21.40(a), the basic twelve-year period begins on the day the Department of Veterans Affairs notifies the veteran of this. The ending date is twelve years from the beginning date.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3103(b)(3), Pub. L. 101-508)

(b) *Character of discharge.* (1) The basic twelve-year period of eligibility shall not begin to run during any period when the veteran had not met the requirement of a discharge or release from the active military, naval or air services under conditions other than dishonorable before:

(i) The discharge or release was changed by appropriate authority, or

(ii) The Department of Veterans Affairs determines that the discharge or release was under conditions other than dishonorable.

(2) The basic twelve-year period shall not begin to run during any period in which the veteran's discharge or dismissal was considered a bar to benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, before this bar is removed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) When there is a change in the character of discharge or dismissal under paragraph (b) (1) or (2) of this section the beginning date of the basic twelve-year period of eligibility is the effective date of the change. Determination of character of discharge and change in the character of discharge shall be made under the provisions of § 3.12. The ending date is twelve years from the beginning date.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3103(b)(2))

(c) *Medical condition prevents initiation or continuation.* (1) The basic 12-year period of eligibility shall not begin to run or continue to run during any period of 30 days or more in which the veteran's participation in vocational rehabilitation is infeasible because of the veteran's medical condition, which condition may include the disabling effects of chronic alcoholism, subject to paragraph (c)(5) of this section. The 12-year period shall begin or resume when it is feasible for the veteran to participate in a vocational rehabilitation program, as that term is defined in § 21.35.